Reservation for Scheduled Castes

†2919. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a commission has been constituted by the Central Government on the subject of reservation for Scheduled Castes;

(b) whether there is a provision to provide special opportunity by fixing a separate quota for the communities among the Scheduled Castes who have not been able to take benefit of reservation, after the constitution of this commission;

(c) whether all castes could not get the benefit of the reservation system for Scheduled Castes in the country uniformally and the details of action being taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The Government of India has set up a National Commission to examine the issue of Sub-Categorisation of Scheduled Castes in Andhra Pradesh with specified terms of reference.

(b) The terms of the said Commission are as under:—

(i) To examine the various facts of the demand for sub-categorization of Scheduled Castes in Andhra Pradesh subsequent to the judgement of the Supreme Court of India in the case of E.V. Chinnaiah *Vs* State of Andhra Pradesh & others [2004(9) Scale].

(ii) To examine the Constitutional, statutory and legal ramifications of the demand for sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes.

(iii) To make recommendations on the future course of action, clearly specifying the grounds and the criteria on which these recommendations are based.

(c) & (d) The endeavour is to bring about over all development of Scheduled Castes listed in the Presidential Orders made under Article 341(1) of the Constitution of India and amended from time to time by Acts of Parliament under Article 341(2) of the Constitution.

Welfare of older persons

2920. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI DARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Parliamentary Standing Committee has lambasted Government's casual approach relating to the welfare of older persons;

(b) whether it is a fact that out of Rs. 88.16 crore allocated for the programmes for welfare of older persons, only 12.16 crore were used and the unutilized fund were diverted to other schemes;

(c) if so, whether Government has, so far, undertaken any review or evaluation study of problems being faced by older persons in operation of schemes, introduced since 1992; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The Parliamentary Standing Committee reviewed the Plan Scheme "An Integrated Programme" for Older Persons and gave their recommendations.

(b) No Sir. An amount of Rs. 74.54 crores has been spent during the Tenth Plan period out of a total Budget Allocation of Rs. 102.66 crores under the scheme.

(c) & (d) Based on the evaluation studies undertaken from time to time, the scheme has been revised.

Scholarships for students

2921. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Rs. 91 crore allocated in the previous budget for providing scholarships to students belonging to socially and educationally backward classes; and

(b) how many scholarships have been provided under this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Under the Scheme of Post-matric Scholarship for OBC students, a budget provision of Rs. 90.75 crore was made during 2007-08 for States/UTs, excluding North-Eastern States and Sikkim, against which an amount of Rs. 110.60 crore has been released to States and UTs, excluding North East States and Sikkim, to benefit 7.77 lakh OBC students Additional funds were made available by re-appropriation of savings under other schemes of the Ministry.

Atrocities on Banjaras

†2922. SHRI JABIR HUSAIN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ten members of Banjara tribe (nomads) were lynched by some unidentified people on the alleged charge of theft in Rajapakar village of Vaishali district of Bihar in September, 2007;

(b) whether following this incident, the Chairman and other members of National Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes visited the venue;

(c) whether a detailed report thereto has been submitted to the Ministry by the commission; and

(d) if so, the details of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.